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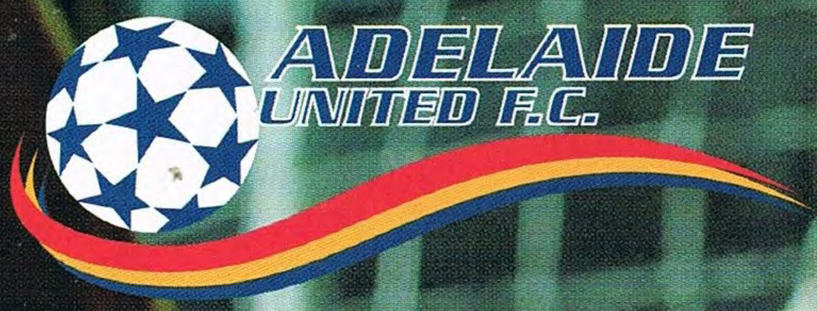
28 DECEMBER 2003



v

melbourne knights

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ISSUE 7

MATCH PROGRAM
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A HOUSEHOLD NAME

ADELAIDE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB
– formed 2003 –

Headquarters	South Australian Soccer Federation 4a Manton St Hindmarsh SA 5016
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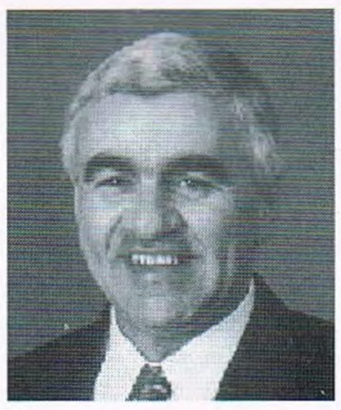
Email	info@adelaideunited.com.au
Web	www.adelaideunited.com.au
Home Ground	Hindmarsh Stadium Holden Street, Hindmarsh
Phone	(08) 8241 7122
Capacity	15 200 (all seated)
Patron	Gordon Pickard AM
President	Basil Scarsella AM
Administration	Sam Ciccarello Liz Davison
Media/Marketing	Angelo Picca
Marketing Services	Alison Papas
Football Manager	John Perin
Team Manager	Orazio Di Carlo
Head Coach	John Kosmina
Assistant Coach	Aurelio Vidmar
Captain	Aurelio Vidmar

from the prez



As we recover from the Christmas festivities we welcome Melbourne Knights to Hindmarsh Stadium for the last time as they have announced their intention not to participate in the proposed restructured 2004 NSL competition. The Knights have been an important part of the Australian soccer scene for a long time and we wish them well for the future.

On Adelaide United's front this is the last home game for 2003 and coach Kosmina and the team should be pleased with their performance during the first half of the season.

Following the recent announcement of the restructured NSL for 2004/05 we at Adelaide United will be preparing a five year business plan which will form the basis of our bid to be part of the new NSL.

The business plan will need to address issues such as funding, marketing, player recruitment and structure. We plan to engage our sponsors and supporters in our plans to ensure that we work together for the success of Adelaide United.

On behalf of the club I would like to wish everybody a happy and prosperous 2004 and thank you for supporting Adelaide United.

BASIL SCARSELLA
President
Adelaide United Football Club

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Salisbury United training and visitation Steve Jervis Park, 16 December

ADELAIDE UNITED F.C.

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The AUFC Club Champion Award, for the club's player of the season, is proudly sponsored by **Adelaide Pest Control**.

The AUFC Rising Star Award, for the club's young player of the season, is proudly sponsored by **Bridgestone Tyre Centre (Croydon Park)**.

Adelaide PEST CONTROL — A HOUSEHOLD NAME

BRIDGESTONE

MATCH DAY TRANSPORT

Car parking

Car parking options for patrons during matches at Hindmarsh Stadium include: Adelaide Entertainment Centre, Education Department Centre Manton Street, and in the middle of Port Road. Additionally there are several other car parks and plenty of street parking within a radius of one km from the Stadium.

Public transport

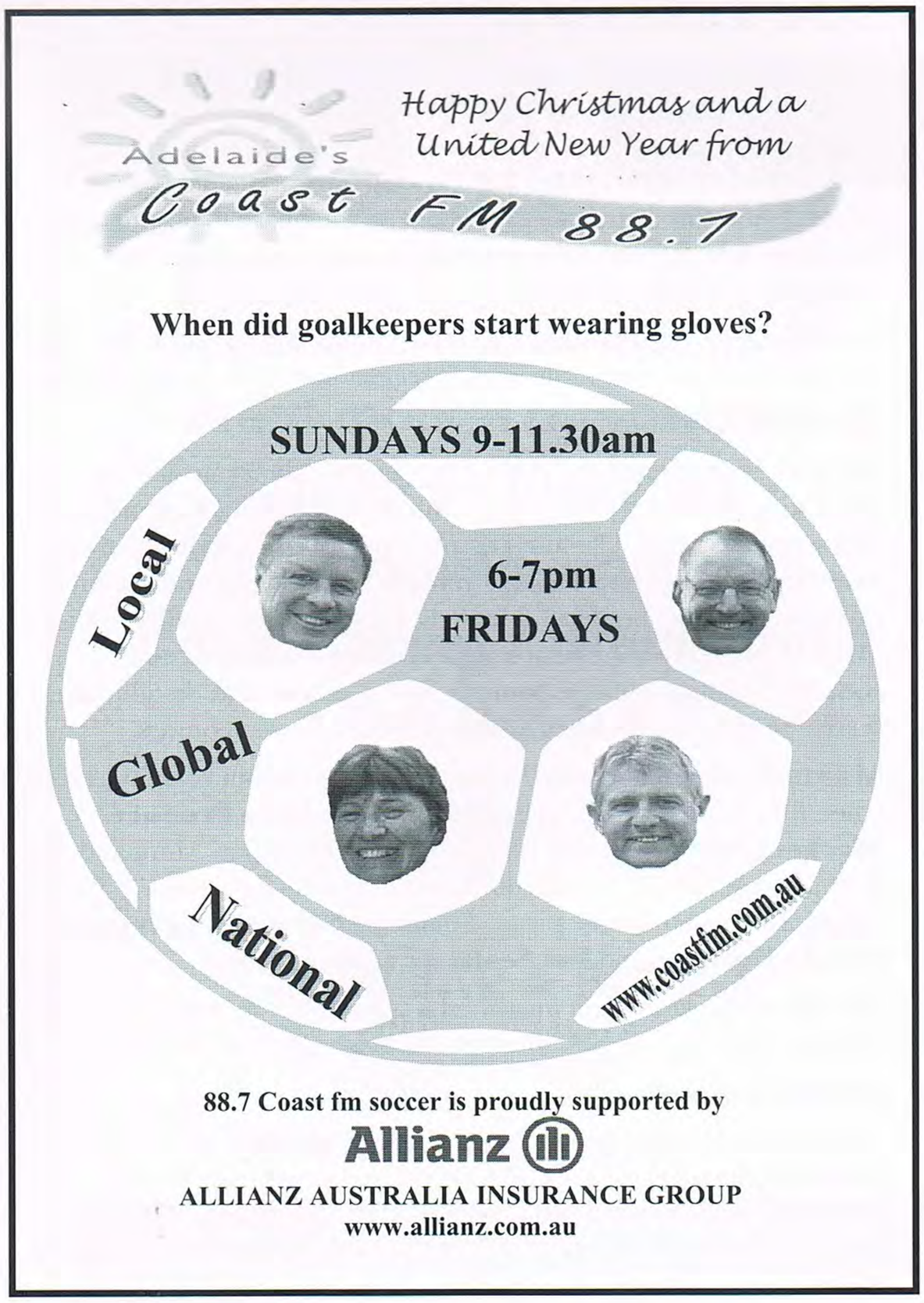
Buses: available from the City to Hindmarsh Stadium and return on services: 115, 118 via Manton St; 111, 112, 113, 115N and 118N via South Road; and 151, 152, 153 and 155 via Port Road. These services run every 15 minutes from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday, and every 30 minutes at night, weekends and public holidays through to the last service.

Trains: nearest stop is Bowden, 500m from the Stadium.

For further information please call the Passenger Transport InfoLine on 8210 1000 or visit www.adelaidemetro.com.au.

Taxi rank

Hindmarsh Stadium, in conjunction with the State Government and the Adelaide United Football Club, now provides a taxi rank. The rank is located outside the turnstiles in Manton St.



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marketing and communications

Angelo Picca

Adelaide United has captured the imagination of all South Australians. Just over three months ago, soccer in Adelaide had fallen into the doldrums, reaching the lowest point in 27 years. Adelaide United was born and the soccer enthusiasts from all parts and regions of South Australia have come out in droves to support the team that everyone has been waiting for: **"The People's team."**

Adelaide United is a team that everyone can relate to and the name United is relevant to the past, the present and the future direction of the code.

The manner in which United has presented itself in terms of marketing and communication to the public and the media in general has completely changed the way soccer was previously perceived and positioned in South Australia.

Communication, **promotion** and **publicity** are key words in the drive to ultimately fill the stadium, generate community excitement and attract ongoing support. This largely is a function of United's ability to provide entertainment and to continue to field a competitive team.

The South Australian soccer fraternity has the pedigree with many outstanding players that have become Australian representatives at the highest level of international soccer. That pedigree will have the opportunity to express itself in the reformed National Soccer League, to possibly be known as the APL (Australian Premier League) as planned by the Australian Soccer Association.

Market Research

United's administration has been strong on gathering information, analysing detail, developing strategies and following through by executing tasks initially set out.

As mentioned in previous weeks, Adelaide United has initiated a market research campaign to ascertain important details regarding fans coming to the games. Thanks to the hundreds of people who took part in the survey, **Market Equity** has completed the research and this is the analytical stage of the phase to ensure that United has the facts and figures to help establish the foundation for a long-term future in Australia's top soccer league.

It is the Club's aim and desire to benchmark its plan and marketing strategies against some of the world's biggest and most successful clubs.

Sponsorship/marketing services

Adelaide United has exceeded all expectations in terms of generating support from the corporate sector, media relationships and supporter base. The aim and objective is firstly about retaining, and then building on the Club's commercial partners and retaining this season's ticket holders, ultimately for the future viability of the Club. It is equally important for the club's marketing arm to continue to listen to our supporters and to ensure that the ultimate service is delivered on match day and elsewhere as required.

Matthew Kemp and wonder boy **Mimi Saric** put on brave faces when they woke early to turn out for the **Adelaide Produce Market** Christmas Brekky on Friday 19th December. Mimi and Kempy joined me at 7am in our quest to continue to build relationships with our sponsors. Thanks to **Gabriella Lorenzetti**, **Angelo De Masi** and **Pat Scalzi** for a job well done.

Both Matthew and Mimi presented a signed shirt to Adelaide Produce Market, and provided several tickets for tonight's game.

Relationships with other sporting codes

On Wednesday of last week, coach **John Kosmina**, goalkeeper **David Scarsella**, striker **Carl Veart** and yours truly (in the absence of **president Basil Scarsella**) was invited to the **Port Adelaide Power** Christmas Cocktail Party. Power President **Greg Bolton** arranged the function to thank all of its sponsors.

congratulations!

To **Nick Budin** and **Bianca**, who were married two weeks ago, on Saturday 13 December. Well done Nick and Bianca, and all the best for a long and happy life together.

To **Melissa** and **Richie Alagich**, who gave birth to **Ethan Maya Alagich** on Thursday 18 December. Ethan came in at 8 pounds, and is reportedly already training to be part of Adelaide United's 2020/21 squad!

It was good to see that Adelaide United was recognised along with the **Adelaide 36ers**. John Kosmina was invited on stage for a short Q & A and once again Kossie proved that he is a great speaker but also a good ambassador to the sport we all love.

Salisbury United – training and visitation

Last week, Adelaide United helped **Salisbury United** celebrate its 50th anniversary by visiting Steve Jarvis Park for a full training session. The occasion saw hundreds of locals choosing to get a close up of the United players. It was extremely well received and after training the players gave all of the kids that attended the opportunity to participate in a group photo and also took time out for autograph signing.

John Kosmina and **John Perin** presented a framed photograph of the Adelaide United team to **David Johnson**, and a plaque to commemorate and celebrate the 50th year was also presented.

It is little wonder that the Northern team is regarded as the heartland of SA soccer, considering the club has produced and nurtured such stars as **Paul Agostino, Michael Brooks, Angelo Costanzo, Daniel Godley, Lou Hristodoulou, Graham Latham, Kristian Rees, Carl Veart** and the late **Paul Wilde.**

Radio v TV stars

The Radio v TV Stars curtain raiser to the AUFC v Sydney Olympic match two weeks ago was a lot of fun and a great success. Well done to all the players, including **Graham Cornes**, **John McCool, Dom Rinaldo**, **Alby Kidd**, **Frank Michelon**, **George Fiachhi, Rob Hart**, **David Wildy**, **Russel Ebert**, **Val Migliaccio**, **Rob Pepicelli**, **Margaret Bowden**, **Corey Wingard**, **Rob Popplestone, Roger Luders, Nathan Thomspon, Greg Anderson, Neil Cross**, **Peter Millar**, **Daniel Halliday, Apollo Jones**, **Pat Nihm**, **Will Robinson** and **KG Cunningham**, and thanks to **Don Campbell** for the entertaining live commentary. Don't miss the next issue of info.united for photos of the memorable event!

Shoot for goal competition

Athans Travel is sponsoring the shoot for goal competition, in which contestants attempt to kick in a 'goal' in a golf-like competition, with three kicks from one end of the pitch. **Athans Travel** is providing the first prize of a return trip with the Adelaide United team to an away game suitable to both parties. Winners will travel with the team and stay at same hotel.

Congratulations to last game's winner **Robbie Thornton**!

The Stand – the long journey to Parramatta

Congratulations to **The Stand** particularly **Adam Butler** and **Con Tsarkiris** for organizing the bus trip to Sydney's Parramatta Stadium last week, ensuring Adelaide United was well supported in foreign territory. The long journey for The Stand started @ 6pm on Friday , arriving in Sydney on Saturday 12pm, watching the game @ 6pm and returning back in Adelaide on Sunday afternoon. Now that is a long trip! The fantastic 2-1 win made for an especially unforgettable journey, and the players showed their appreciation to the travelling fans by running to them immediately after the match.

The Stand ought to be applauded for the incredible support they have given the United players not only at home but also in two away trips so far this season. Well done guys, your support is appreciated.

Angelo Picca
Marketing/Media Manager
Adelaide United FC

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results & line-ups

ADELAIDE UNITED F.C.

Date	Opponent	Venue	Result	Richie Alagich	Ross Aloisi	Robert Bajic	Nick Budin	Elias Demourtzidis	Aaron Goulding	Matthew Kemp	Goran Lozanovski	Adriano Pellegrino	Kristian Rees	Mimi Saric	David Scarsella	Shane Smeltz	David Terminello	Shane Thompson	Mike Valkanis	Carl Veart	Aurelio Vidmar	Aaron Westervelt
17.10.03	Brisbane Strikers	Hindmarsh Stadium	W 1–0	●	●y			●	●	●	●	○	●	○	●		○		●	❶	●	
24.10.03	Newcastle United	EnergyAustralia	W 3–2	●	●			●	●	●	●	○	●	○y	●		○		●	❷	❶	
02.11.03	Sydney United	Hindmarsh Stadium	D 0–0	●	●			●	●	●	●y	○	●	○	●				●	●	●	
08.11.03	Marconi Stallions	Marconi Stadium	D 0–0	●	●y			○	●	●	●	○	●		●		○		●	●	●y	●y
16.11.03	Perth Glory	Hindmarsh Stadium	L 1–4	●	●			●	●	❶	●	○	●	○	●		○		●	●y	●	
23.11.03	South Melbourne	Bob Jane Stadium	L 1–2	●	●y	●		○	●	●	●y	○	●y	○		●	○		●y	❶	●	
28.11.03	Wollongong Wolves	Hindmarsh Stadium	D 2–2	●	●	●			●	●	●		●	①		●		○	❶	●	●	○
30.11.03	Sydney Olympic	OKI Jubilee Stadium	D 0–0	●	●	●	○		●		●	●	●	○		●		●		●	●	○y
06.12.03	Football Kingz	Ericsson Stadium	W 3–1	●	●		○		●y		●	❶y	●	●	●	①		●		❶	●	○
10.12.03	Northern Spirit	Hindmarsh Stadium	W 3–1	●	●		○y		●		●	●	●	❶	●y			●		●	●	○y
14.12.03	Sydney Olympic	Hindmarsh Stadium	D 1–1	●	●				●		●		●		●	●	○	❶	○y	●	●r	●
20.12.03	Parramatta Power	Parramatta Stadium	W 2–1	●	❶		●	○	●		●	○y	●y		●		○	●y	●	❶y		●

●=starting appearance. ○=substitute appearance. Goals denoted by number. y=yellow card. r=red card.

remaining matches

Rnd	Date		Time	Opponent	Venue
16	Sun	28.12.03	7:00pm	Melbourne Knights	Hindmarsh Stadium
18	Wed	07.01.04	7:00pm	Brisbane Strikers	Perry Park
19	Sun	11.01.04	7:00pm	Newcastle United	Hindmarsh Stadium
20	Sun	18.01.04	6:30pm	Sydney United	Sydney Utd Sports Centre
21	Fri	23.01.04	7:30pm	Marconi Stallions	Hindmarsh Stadium
22	Sat	31.01.04	7:00pm	Perth Glory	Members Equity Stadium
23	Fri	06.02.04	7:30pm	South Melbourne	Hindmarsh Stadium
3	Sun	08.02.04	6:00pm	Melbourne Knights	Knights Stadium
24	Fri	13.02.04	7:35pm	Wollongong Wolves	WIN Stadium
25	Fri	20.02.04	7:30pm	Football Kingz	Hindmarsh Stadium
2	Wed	25.02.04	7:30pm	Parramatta Power	Hindmarsh Stadium
26	Sun	29.02.04	tba	Northern Spirit	Pittwater Park

Dates/times subject to change.
Local times shown.
Finals series runs from 5 March–4 April

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with Alison Papas

adriano pellegrino

what is your pre-game ritual or routine?
Listen to lots of music, and eat toast

what would you like to achieve in your soccer career over the next five years?
To win a Premiership with Adelaide United, and make my way overseas at some point.

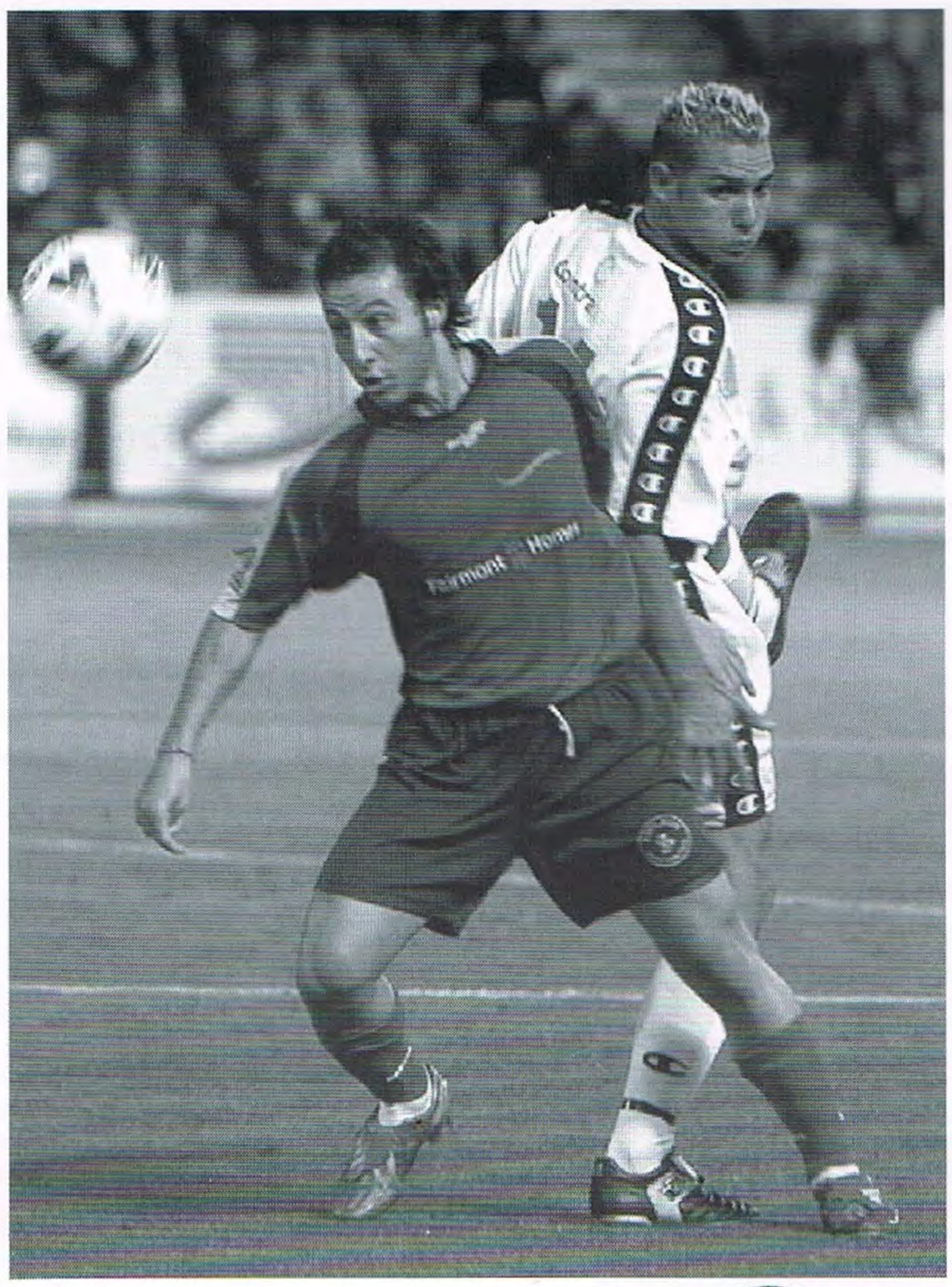
besides actually playing soccer, what are some of the most enjoyable aspects of being part of Adelaide United?
The fact that everyone in Adelaide is behind the club and everyone involved in the club are so helpful.

as one of the youngest members of the team, what sort of advice do you get from the more experienced players?
Never give up; always try your hardest; stand up for yourself; believe in your ability.

does playing professional sport put limitations on other areas of your life, ie socially?
Well, a lot of sacrifices have to be made when playing at a high level... you still keep in close contact and friends and relatives, and still go out with your friends, but you must have early nights and get plenty of sleep ready for training and playing.

you scored your first ever NSL goal this season, against the Football Kingz in Auckland - can you tell us a bit about it?
It was something I will never forget... Shane Thompson gave me the ball from out wide; I looked up and before I knew it I was running towards the bench with my top off, not believing I had just scored my first goal.

how do you think the other players would describe you?
Full of energy and never keeping still.



shane thompson

what is your pre-game ritual or routine?
I'll usually have a sleep shortly before I leave for the ground - that's about it.

if you weren't pursuing a soccer career, what do you think you would be doing now?
I've rarely thought about anything else... I was a very promising landscaper... I also considered joining the army once to become a pilot. I definitely would have finished my uni degree a lot sooner, so perhaps something in commerce.

what was your most embarrassing moment?
There have been so many, it's hard to sort out the 'most'. Most recently would be having my front tooth knocked out against Northern Spirit... apparently it has made The Stand's website, I'm sure I look ridiculous!

when you're not playing soccer, what are you usually doing (besides waxing)?
I like reading and movies. I'm a strong believer in the siesta.

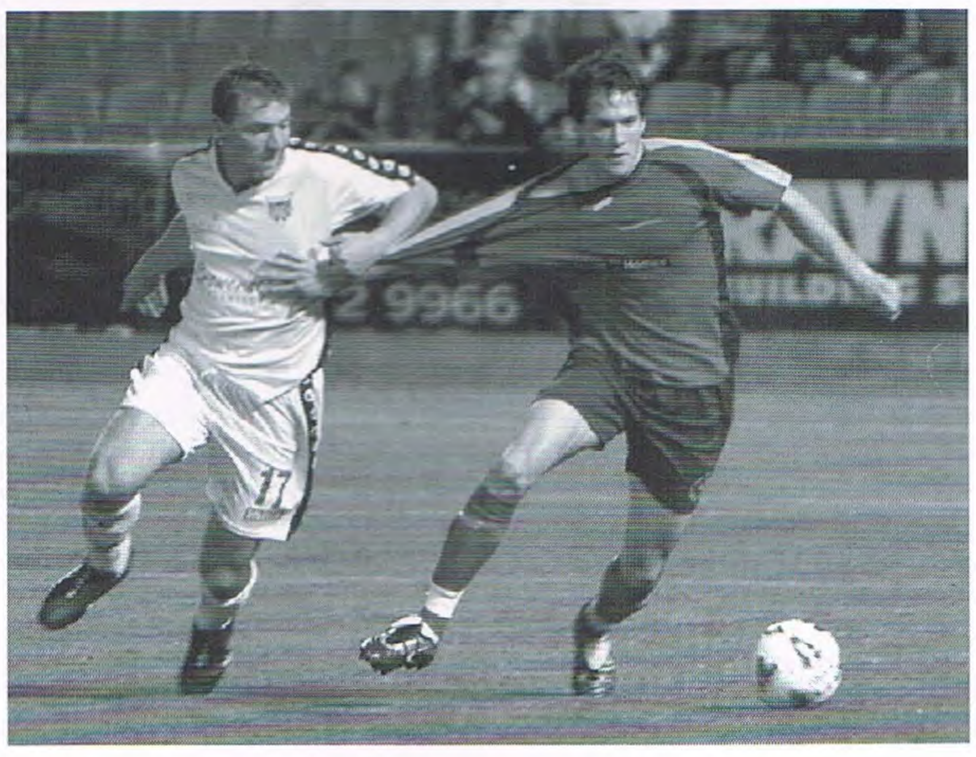
what is your most annoying habit?
My girlfriend always complain about me being lazy with everything except for soccer. I also put things off till the last minute, that can be annoying for others.

what is your greatest strength as a soccer player and why?
I like to think I'm fit and fast... I work pretty hard as well because that's the one thing about your game you can always control.

can you tell us about your first NSL goal, scored against Sydney Olympic?
Goals are always good, but to score at such an important time in front of that huge crowd was something else.

how do you think the other players would describe you?
I'm a good revenue earner for the players' fine system! I don't really know, maybe easy-going, unassuming, and sometimes tries to be funny but rarely is.

what's it like playing in the NSL for the first time this season, with Adelaide United?
To be part of something as big as AUFC has become is fantastic - I feel very lucky. I can only hope the rest of the country catches up soon.



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1. David Scarsella
Born: 12-Oct-82 **Position:** Goalkeeper
Australian honours: Schoolboys
NSL statistics: debut 02/03 season
17 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former club: Adelaide City (NSL)

2. Richie Alagich
Born: 30-Oct-73 **Position:** Defender
Australian honours: Schoolboys, Under 20, Under 23
NSL statistics: debut 93/94 season
186 games / 4 goals / 1 send-off
Former clubs: Brisbane Strikers (NSL), South Melbourne (NSL), West Adelaide (NSL), Port Adelaide (SA), Birkalla (SA)

3. Kristian Rees
Born: 6-Jan-80 **Position:** Defender
NSL statistics: debut 00/01 season
52 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Para Hills (SA)

4. Aaron Goulding
Born: 29-Apr-82 **Position:** Defender
Australian honours: Under 17, Under 20, Under 23
NSL statistics: debut 00/01 season
30 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Playford City (SA), Para Hills (SA), SASI

5. Mike Valkanis
Born: 23-Aug-74 **Position:** Defender
Australian honours: Under 23
NSL statistics: debut 92/93 season
95 games / 4 goals / 2 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Agios Nikolaos (Greece), Larissa (Greece), Iraklis (Greece), South Melbourne (NSL)

6. Ross Aloisi
Born: 17-Apr-73 **Position:** Midfielder
Australian honours: Under 17, Under 23, Socceroos (5 games)
NSL statistics: debut 90/91 season
114 games / 15 goals / 2 send-offs
Former clubs: Pro Sesto (Italy), Alzano (Italy), Grazer (Austria), Lorient (France), Aarau (Switzerland), West Adelaide (NSL), Brunswick (NSL), Adelaide City (NSL), FC Boom (Belgium)

7. David Terminello
Born: 30-Aug-80 **Position:** Midfielder
Australian honours: Schoolboys, Under 17, Under 20
NSL statistics: debut 98/99 season
111 games / 6 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Carlton (NSL), SASI, Campbelltown (SA)

8. Carl Veart
Born: 21-May-70 **Position:** Striker
Australian honours: Under 23, Socceroos (23 games)
NSL statistics: debut 89/90 season
289 games / 72 goals / 1 send-off
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Millwall (England), Crystal Palace (England), Sheffield United (England), Salisbury (SA), Whyalla Croatia (SA)

9. Shane Smeltz
Born: 29-Sep-81 **Position:** Striker
Representative honours: New Zealand Under 20, senior team
NSL statistics: debut 99/00 season
53 games / 8 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Napier City (New Zealand), Brisbane Strikers (NSL), Gold Coast City (Qld), Queensland Academy of Sport

10. Aurelio Vidmar (c)
Born: 3-Feb-67 **Position:** Midfielder
Australian honours: Olympic team, Socceroos (53 games)
NSL statistics: debut 1985 season
278 games / 51 goals / 4 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), San Frecce Hiroshima (Japan), Tenerife (Spain), Sion (Switzerland), Feyenoord (Holland), Standard Liege (Belgium), Waregem (Belgium), Kortrijk (Belgium)

11. Goran Lozanovski
Born: 11-Jan-74 **Position:** Midfielder
Australian honours: Under 20, Under 23, Socceroos (9 games)
NSL statistics: debut 91/92 season
252 games / 27 goals / 4 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Alemannia Aachen (Germany), South Melbourne (NSL), Collingwood Warriors (NSL), Preston (NSL), AIS, Altona Gate (Vic)

12. Shane Thompson
Born: 24-Nov-78 **Position:** Defender
NSL statistics: debut 03/04 season
6 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Enfield Falcons (SA), Northern Spirit (NSL), Birkalla (SA), Adelaide City (NSL)

14. Sean Widera
Born: 18-Nov-81 **Position:** Striker
NSL statistics: –
Former clubs: Raiders (SA), Croydon (SA), Adelaide City (SA), Hibernian (Scotland), SASI

15. Aaron Westervelt
Born: 21-Nov-79 **Position:** Midfielder
Australian honours: Schoolboys
NSL statistics: debut 97/98 season
20 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Enfield Falcons (SA), Para Hills (SA), Birkalla (SA), Elizabeth (SA), West Adelaide (NSL), AIS, SASI

17. Mimi Saric
Born: 3-Sep-83 **Position:** Striker
Australian honours: Under 17
NSL statistics: debut 01/02 season
18 games / 3 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Raiders (SA), AIS, SASI, Campbelltown

19. Elias Demourtzidis
Born: 25-Jun-81 **Position:** Striker
Australian honours: Under 20
NSL statistics: debut 98/99 season
21 games / 2 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Adelaide Olympic (SA), Sydney Olympic (NSL), South Melbourne (NSL), West Adelaide (NSL), AIS, SASI

20. Robert Bajic
Born: 29-Jul-77 **Position:** Goalkeeper
NSL statistics: debut 03/04 season
3 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Raiders (SA), Rochedale (Qld), Rocklea (Qld)

21. Adriano Pellegrino
Born: 9-Jun-84 **Position:** Midfielder
Australian honours: Under 20
NSL statistics: debut 01/02 season
20 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
Former club: Adelaide City (NSL)

22. Nick Crossley
Born: 12-Sep-87 **Position:** Goalkeeper
Australian honours: Under 17
NSL statistics: –
Former clubs: SASI, Modbury (SA)

23. Nick Budin
Born: 18-Mar-82 **Position:** Striker
Australian honours: Schoolboys
NSL statistics: debut 00/01 season
34 games / 5 goals / 0 send-offs
Former club: Adelaide City (NSL)

24. Matthew Kemp
Born: 8-Aug-80 **Position:** Midfielder
NSL statistics: debut 99/00 season
80 games / 8 goals / 1 send-off
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), Spal (Italy), AIS, Belconnen United (ACT)

COACH: John Kosmina

- Born 17 August 1956, played for Croydon (Polonia) pre-1977
- Played 102 games and scored 45 goals for the Socceroos from 1976 and 1988; captain from 1982 to 1986
- Played 289 games & scored 133 goals in the NSL, for West Adelaide (1977, 1979–1980), Adelaide City (1978), Sydney City (1981–1986), Sydney Olympic (1987–1988), APIA (1989)
- Spent 1977/78 at Arsenal, England
- Won NSW State League Championship as coach of Warringah Dolphins 1995

NSL coaching record

Season	*Club*	*Games*	*W–D–L*
95/96–97/98	Newcastle Breakers	85	15–23–47
99/00–02/03	Brisbane Strikers	140	48–36–56
03/04	Adelaide United	12	5–5–2
TOTAL NSL		237	68–64–105

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club honours

Champions (2)	94/95, 95/96
Runners-up (3)	90/91, 91/92, 93/94
Premiers (4)	90/91, 91/92, 93/94, 94/95
Finalists (12)	1984, 1985, 1989, 89/90, 90/91, 91/92, 93/94, 94/95, 95/96, 96/97, 00/01, 01/02
Cup Winner (1)	94/95

player honours

Most games	Josip Biskic 282 games (1984–96/97)
Most goals	Ivan Kelic 75 goals (1989–99/00)

nsl statistics

	P	*W*	*D*	*L*	*F*	*A*	*Best result*	*Worst result*
All matches	568	245	127	196	864	764	W8-1 v Woll Utd (24.03.91)	L0-6 v Adel City (31.03.91)
In Adelaide	36	8	8	20	41	63	W4-0 v West Adel (19.08.84)	L0-6 v Adel City (31.03.91)
At Hindmarsh	30	6	8	16	36	52	W4-0 v West Adel (19.08.84)	L0-6 v Adel City (31.03.91)

league record (20 seasons)

	REGULAR SEASON.....						*Ladder*		*Average*	
Season	*P*	*W*	*D*	*L*	*F*	*A*	*pos.*	*Teams*	*crowd*	*Top scorer – goals*
1984	28	13	7	8	38	31	3rd	12x2	3000	David Brogan – 9
1985	22	9	6	7	29	21	4th	12x2	2000	Gary Ward – 8
1986	22	6	6	10	25	33	10th	12x2	2300	Paul Lewis – 6
1987	24	9	5	10	22	30	9th	13	1900	Paul Lewis – 10
1988	26	9	6	11	28	33	9th	14	1700	Paul Lewis – 13
1989	26	13	5	8	44	35	4th	14	3066	Zeljko Adzic – 13
89/90	26	14	7	5	49	26	3rd	14	4778	Zeljko Adzic – 11
90/91	26	15	7	4	55	39	1st	14	3529	Ivan Kelic – 17
91/92	26	14	7	5	45	26	1st	14	3161	Francis Awaritefe – 14
92/93	26	10	4	12	38	39	10th	14	2758	Oliver Pondeljak – 9
93/94	26	16	5	5	59	24	1st	14	3155	Mark Viduka – 17
94/95	24	16	4	4	56	25	1st	13	4771	Mark Viduka – 21
95/96	33	17	8	8	50	28	2nd	12	4383	Andrew Marth – 10
96/97	26	11	6	9	36	32	6th	14	4883	Adrian Cervinski – 13
97/98	26	11	6	9	37	35	7th	14	4231	Tom Pondeljak – 11
98/99	28	8	5	15	32	43	12th	15	3441	Ivan Kelic – 10
99/00	34	13	6	15	44	57	12th	16	4141	Adrian Cervinski, Ivan Kelic – 11
00/01	28	12	7	9	55	46	6th	15	4917	Adrian Cervinski – 13
01/02	24	11	3	10	41	40	6th	13	4119	Joel Porter – 12
02/03	24	7	6	11	38	52	8th	13	4010	Anthony Pelikan – 10

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS IN ADELAIDE

Date	*Opponent*	*Result*
11.03.84	Adel City	W 3–2
19.08.84	West Adel	W 4–0
26.05.85	Adel City	L 0–3
30.06.85	West Adel	W 3–0
27.07.86	Adel City	W 2–0
07.09.86	West Adel	D 2–2
09.08.87	Adel City	L 0–3
13.03.88	Adel City	L 0–2
18.06.89	Adel City	L 0–1
04.03.90	West Adel	W 3–0
15.04.90	Adel City	D 0–0
31.03.91	Adel City	L 0–6
17.11.91	Adel City	L 0–2
26.12.91	West Adel	D 1–1
04.10.92	Adel City	L 1–2
22.11.92	West Adel	L 1–2
12.12.93	West Adel	W 2–0
16.01.94	Adel City	D 1–1
27.12.94	Adel City	L 0–3
29.01.95	West Adel	D 1–1
17.04.95	Adel City	L 0–1
07.05.95	Adel City	W 2–0
22.10.95	West Adel	D 1–1
26.11.95	Adel City	D 2–2
24.03.96	West Adel	L 0–1
14.04.96	Adel City	L 0–5
23.02.97	Adel City	L 0–1
13.04.97	West Adel	W 4–2
28.12.97	West Adel	L 1–2
22.03.98	Adel City	L 1–3
25.10.98	Adel City	L 0–3
19.03.99	West Adel	L 0–1
07.05.00	Adel City	L 1–3
22.12.00	Adel City	L 2–3
18.01.02	Adel City	L 2–3
29.09.02	Adel City	D 1–1

melbourne knights history

A club simply called 'Croatia' entered the Victorian provisional league in 1953, merging with Preston Croat in 1965, then taking over the Essendon Lions in 1975. Under the name of Essendon Croatia, the team finished either first or second in each Victorian State League season 1978 to 1984. Eddie Krncevic, Australia's first overseas success story of the modern era, came through the Essendon state league ranks.

Renamed to Melbourne Croatia, the club's national league career commenced stunningly in 1984 as it reached the Preliminary Final of the NSL's southern conference at the first attempt.

The western Melbourne club's first NSL grand final appearance came at the climax of the 1990/91 season, when it lost an enthralling grand final to South Melbourne only on a penalty shoot-out. The same scenario occurred in 1992, the team losing on penalties to Adelaide City. Yet another grand final appearance (and another name change - this time to the Melbourne Knights) in 1993/94 saw another grand final loss, again to Adelaide City (0-1).

In 1994/95 the Knights finally gained Championship honours when it defeated Adelaide City at Hindmarsh Stadium 2-0 in the most one sided of national league grand finals ever played. No one team has dominated a season like the Knights did in 1994/95. The team were Champions, Minor Premiers and Cup-Winners - the first time ever that one club has ever taken out the 'treble'. The 6-0 win in the National Cup final (against Heidelberg) was again the most one-sided final of that competition. Teenage sensation Mark Viduka took out the player of the year, under 21 player of the year and top scorer of the year. Mirko Bazic was voted coach of the year. Amazingly, the same two people had won the same four awards the previous season.

Despite losing many players, the club won the league again in 1995/96 after defeating Marconi in the grand final 2-1 at Olympic Park. Even more players disappeared after the 1996 grand final.

Although the Knights proudly owns its own ground, the club has never been awash with funds and has consistently lost players over the years because of this. In fact, the continual sale of locally-bred players has largely kept the club afloat in recent years. Like sister club Sydney United, Melbourne Knights has a highly-revered youth system, which has developed a stack of Australian Internationals. The club has reportedly decided not to take part in next year's revamped national league, and instead will go to the Victorian state league. A brave decision, but one which will ensure the club remains a viable entity and allow it to keep its tradition, rather than spend its existence merely scrounging for the next buck or having to 'reinvent' itself. And no doubt the stream of young Knights' talent will continue to flow through to the top level.

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2. Stanko Zilic
Born: 1-Dec-81 **Position:** Defender
NSL stats: debut 03/04 season
11 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Knights: debut 03/04 season
11 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former club: Raiders (SA)

3. Rodrigo Vargas
Born: 21-Oct-78 **Position:** Defender
NSL stats: debut 99/00 season
117 games / 2 goals / 2 send-offs
Knights: debut 99/00 season
117 games / 2 goals / 2 send-offs
Former clubs: Port Melbourne (Vic), Springvale City (Vic)

4. Antun Kovacic
Born: 11-Jul-81 **Position:** Defender
NSL stats: debut 00/01 season
38 games / 0 goals / 1 send-off
Knights: debut 00/01 season
38 games / 0 goals / 1 send-off
Former clubs: Heidelberg (Vic), Preston (Vic)

6. Andrew Marth (c)
Born: 11-Feb-69 **Position:** Midfielder
Australian honours: Socceroos
NSL stats: debut 1986 season
388 games / 65 goals / 11 send-offs
Knights: debut 89/90 season
259 games / 46 goals / 6 send-offs
Former clubs: Carlton (NSL), Green Gully (Vic), St Albans (Vic), Sunshine (NSL)

7. Daniel Vasilevski
Born: 5-Sep-81 **Position:** Defender
Australian honours: U23, U20
NSL stats: debut 99/00 season
66 games / 3 goals / 0 send-offs
Knights: debut 00/01 season
54 games / 2 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Carlton (NSL), Altona Gate (Vic), AIS

8. Daniel Rocco
Born: 27-Feb-83 **Position:** Midfielder
NSL stats: debut 01/02 season
15 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Knights: debut 01/02 season
15 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs

9. Peter Buljan
Born: 15-Jul-78 **Position:** Attacker
Australian honours: U23, U20
NSL stats: debut 96/97 season
147 games / 34 goals / 1 send-off
Knights: debut 03/04 season
3 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: South Melbourne (NSL), Brisbane Strikers (NSL), Perth Glory (NSL), Canberra Cosmos (NSL), Capital City Suns (ACT), AIS

10. Nick Sabljak
Born: 10-Jan-80 **Position:** Midfielder
Australian honours: U23
NSL stats: debut 96/97 season
119 games / 10 goals / 2 send-offs
Knights: debut 02/03 season
29 games / 3 goals / 1 send-off
Former clubs: Adelaide City (NSL), South Melbourne (NSL), Raiders (SA)

11. Tomi Razov
Born: 20-Nov-84 **Position:** Midfielder
NSL stats: debut 03/04 season
12 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
Knights: debut 03/04 season
12 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
Former club: St Albans (Vic)

12. Isyan Erdogan
Born: 26-Sep-82 **Position:** Midfielder
NSL stats: debut 98/99 season
29 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
Knights: debut 02/03 season
28 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Whittlesea Stallions (Vic), Carlton (NSL)

14. Adrian Leijer
Born: 26-Mar-86 **Position:** Defender
Australian honours: U17
NSL stats: debut 03/04 season
9 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Knights: debut 03/04 season
9 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs

16. Bill Natsioulas
Born: 31-Oct-84 **Position:** Midfielder
NSL stats: debut 02/03 season
18 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Knights: debut 02/03 season
18 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former club: Bentleigh (Vic)

17. Andy Vargas
Born: 4-Jul-77 **Position:** Midfielder
Australian honours: U23, U20, U17
NSL stats: debut 97/98 season
123 games / 10 goals / 1 send-off
Knights: debut 00/01 season
60 games / 4 goals / 1 send-off
Former clubs: Green Gully (Vic), Morwell Falcons (NSL), Port Melbourne (Vic), Carlton (NSL), Colo Colo (Chile), Springvale City (Vic), Brunswick (Vic)

18. Henry Fa'Arodo
Born: 6-Oct-82 **Position:** Midfielder
Nationality: Solomon Islander
NSL stats: debut 02/03 season
26 games / 4 goals / 0 send-offs
Knights: debut 02/03 season
26 games / 4 goals / 0 send-offs
Former club: Fawkner (Vic)

19. Anthony Pelikan
Born: 9-Feb-82 **Position:** Attacker
NSL stats: debut 99/00 season
61 games / 17 goals / 0 send-offs
Knights: debut 99/00 season
61 games / 17 goals / 0 send-offs

21. Serkan Oksuz
Born: 17-Jun-86 **Position:** Attacker
Australian honours: U17
NSL stats: debut 02/03 season
11 games / 2 goals / 0 send-offs
Knights: debut 02/03 season
11 games / 2 goals / 0 send-offs

22. Steve Pantelidis
Born: 18-Aug-83 **Position:** Midfielder
NSL stats: debut 03/04 season
4 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Knights: debut 03/04 season
4 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Altona East (Vic), AIS

25. Tommi Tomich
Born: 15-Feb-80 **Position:** Goalkeeper
NSL stats: debut 03/04 season
3 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Knights: debut 03/04 season
3 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Western Knights (WA), Bassendon Caledonian (WA), Cockburn City (WA), Perth Glory (NSL)

26. Kris Trajanovski
Born: 20-Feb-72 **Position:** Attacker
Australian honours: Socceroos, U20
NSL stats: debut 90/91 season
307 games / 76 goals / 0 send-offs
Knights: debut 03/04 season
5 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Tampines Rovers (Singapore), Tanjong Pagar (Singapore), Brisbane Strikers (NSL), Marconi Stallions (NSL), Adelaide City (NSL), Sydney Olympic (NSL), Rockdale (NSW), Happy Valley (Hong Kong), AIS, Preston (NSL)

27. Vilson Knezevic
Born: 20-Oct-75 **Position:** Goalkeeper
NSL stats: debut 93/94 season
81 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Knights: debut 93/94 season
15 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Germinal Beerschot (Belgium), Sydney United (NSL), Adelaide City (NSL), Canberra Cosmos (NSL), North Geelong (Vic)

28. Nick Marinos
Born: 15-May-81 **Position:** Midfielder
NSL stats: debut 03/04 season
3 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
Knights: debut 03/04 season
3 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
Former clubs: Panahaiki (Greece), Green Gully (Vic)

COACH: Ian Dobson
·Born 1957 in Hull, England; played 92 English league games (7 goals) for Hull 1975–80 & 41 games (5 goals) for Hereford 1980–82; moved to Melbourne 1982 and joined Croydon.
·Played 97 NSL games (3 goals) for Preston and Melbourne Knights from 1984 to 1988
·As coach, won NSL Championship with the Knights in 1995/96
·As coach, won Victorian titles in 1995 & 1997 with Altona Magic

NSL STATISTICS

Season	Club	Games	W	D	L
91/92–92/93	Preston	17	3	6	8
95/96–96/97	Melbourne Knights	47	22	11	14
03/04	Melbourne Knights	13	3	2	8
TOTAL		*77*	*28*	*19*	*30*

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The Stand

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post 99 Anzac Hwy, Ashford 5035
phone Adam Butler 0412 370 666

Adelaide United Football Club Supporters Group

"We stand united in support and celebration"

The Stand hopes that you all had a Merry Christmas and that you all will have a fantastic 2004. We hope that we have helped you enjoy the experience of Hindmarsh Stadium. We certainly are very thankful that we have a team to support.

2004 looks to be an thrilling year for everybody involved with AUFC; players, admin, sponsors and supporters alike. Thanks to **The Joiners Arms**, **Fairmont Homes**, **Bianco Building Supplies** & **Butler & Butler Insurance** for their remarkable support of The Stand in 2003! Remember sing LOUD, be RED and "GO UNITED!"

RED REMINDER!

The Stand would love to see as many people dressed in **red** at Hindmarsh as possible. A surging sea of red is an awesome sight and adds to the atmosphere of an excited and noisy crowd.

THE STAND GOES INTO BAT!

Friday 9 January (day/nighter): Redbacks v Tasmanian Tigers @ Adelaide Oval. Come along, show some support for the Redbacks, and promote The Stand and AUFC.

GET MOBILE III

Sunday 8 February: Melbourne Knights v AUFC @ Knights Stadium, Melbourne. More details in coming weeks.

Memo: www.standunited.org *now has 100s of photos from home & away matches.*

Adelaide Is Rollin' Along

Come on boys, make some noise
We're a team of class and poise
And our Adelaide is rollin' along

We will fight, we have heart
We're UNITED, from the start
And our Adelaide is rollin' along

Let the nation see,
Our best Artillery,
Shout out our numbers loud n' strong
For where ever you go
You will always know
That United is rollin' along

In the day or in the night
Action left and action right
And our Adelaide is rollin' along

In The Stand, hear us shout
We're UNITED, have no doubt
And our Adelaide is rollin' along

Let the nation see,
Our best Artillery,
Shout out our numbers loud n' strong
For where ever you go
You will always know
That United is rollin' along
Yes! United is rollin' along
YEAH! UNITED!!! is rollin' along

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Contact Ian Brooks

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adelaide united

No.	Name	Age	2003–04..... Games	Goals
1	David Scarsella	21	9	0
2	Richie Alagich	30	12	0
3	Kristian Rees	23	12	0
4	Aaron Goulding	21	12	0
5	Mike Valkanis	29	9	1
6	Ross Aloisi	30	12	1
7	David Terminello	23	7	0
8	Carl Veart	33	12	6
9	Shane Smeltz	22	5	1
10	Aurelio Vidmar	36	11	1
11	Goran Lozanovski	29	12	0
12	Shane Thompson	25	6	1
14	Sean Widera	22	–	–
15	Aaron Westervelt	24	7	0
17	Mimi Saric	20	8	2
19	Elias Demourtzidis	22	7	0
20	Robert Bajic	26	3	0
21	Adriano Pellegrino	19	10	1
22	Nick Crossley	16	–	–
23	Nick Budin	21	4	0
24	Matthew Kemp	23	7	1

FORM GUIDE past five games

Result	Opponent (home/away)	Scorers
D 0–0	Sydney Olympic (A)	
W 3–1	Football Kingz (A)	Pellegrino 50', Smeltz 76', Veart 86'
W 1–0	Northern Spirit (H)	Saric 8'
D 1–1	Sydney Olympic (H)	Thompson 87'
W 2–1	Parramatta Power (A)	Aloisi 10', Veart 18'

melbourne knights

No.	Name	Age	2003–04..... Games	Goals
2	Stanko Zilic	22	11	0
3	Rodrigo Vargas	25	13	0
4	Antun Kovacic	22	13	0
6	Andrew Marth	34	8	0
7	Daniel Vasilevski	22	6	1
8	Daniel Rocco	20	–	–
9	Peter Buljan	25	3	0
10	Nick Sabljak	23	9	0
11	Tomi Razov	19	12	1
12	Isyan Erdogan	21	10	0
14	Adrian Leijer	17	9	0
16	Bill Natsioulas	19	11	0
17	Andy Vargas	26	11	0
18	Henry Fa'Arodo	21	8	0
19	Anthony Pelikan	21	12	5
21	Serkan Oksuz	17	8	1
22	Steve Pantelidis	20	4	0
25	Tommi Tomich	23	3	0
26	Kris Trajanovski	31	5	0
27	Vilson Knezevic	28	4	0
28	Nick Marinos	22	3	1

FORM GUIDE past five games

Result	Opponent (home/away)	Scorers
L 0–1	Bris Strikers (A)	
D 1–1	Newc United (H)	Razov 49'
L 1–3	Sydney Utd (A)	Vasilevski 83'
W 1–0	Marconi (A)	Marinos 92'+
L 0–2	Perth Glory (H)	

curtain raiser

Women's match: Adelaide Sensation v President's Select XI

Adelaide Sensation	*President's Select XI*
1 Emma Wirkus (gk)	23 Leanne Trimboli (gk)
2 Marie Lathouros (mid)	2 Kristy Moore (m/a)
3 Leanne Slater (m/a)	3 Lynn White (m/gk)
4 Dianne Alagich (def)	4 Joanne Izzo (m/d)
5 Amy Shigrov (def)	5 Gail Hillyer (d/m)
6 Chichi May (def)	6 Katrina Bexis (mid)
7 Roushan Walsh (d/m)	7 Lia Augimeri (att)
8 Nenita Burgess (d/m)	8 Tania Harrison (mid)
9 Stacey Stocco (mid)	9 Kristyn Swaffer (d/m)
10 Vicki Balomenos (att)	10 Jessica Halfpenny (m/a)
11 Lisa De Vanna (att)	11 Sharon Black (mid)
12 Ann Marie Ralph (mid)	12 Angela Sabljak (m/a)
13 Hannah Vogt (d/m)	13 Laura Mazzone (def)
14 Collette McCallum (mid)	16 Rebecca Morrison (m/a)
15 Katherine Wilson (mid)	
16 Christina Papageorgiou (m/a)	
17 Marie Spagnoletti (mid)	
18 Stacey Day (d/m)	
19 Kirralea Brock (def)	
20 Chelsea Hodge (d/m)	
21 Leanne Gubbins (gk)	
22 Cheryl Salisbury (d/m)	
23 Nyssa Griffin (gk)	
Coach Kevin McCormack	*Coach* Tony De'Gregorio
Trainer Berthy May	*Trainer* Michelle Oulianoff

half time

Pura Milk Mini League Cup

At half time of Adelaide United matches you will see the stars of the future participating in the **Pura Milk** Mini League Cup.

The teams are selected from the Federation's Junior Premier League. Players are under 12. The competition is conducted on a knockout basis which culminates with a Grand Final to be played at half time of Adelaide United last home match against Parramatta Power, on Wednesday February 25. The winning team will be presented with the **Pura Milk** Mini League Champions Cup and medallions to all players.

Teams are seven a side with two substitutions allowed. Matches are played over two 5 minute halves. Should the scores be tied at full time the result is determined by the numbers of corner kicks won.

This competition gives over 150 boys and girls the opportunity of experiencing the excitement of playing on the hallowed Hindmarsh turf in front of packed audiences. Referees are also appointed from the Junior Premier League Referees branch.

Make sure you all cheer loud in appreciation of our stars of the future.

TONIGHT'S ROUND
Western Districts v Playford City
Western Strikers v Adelaide Comets

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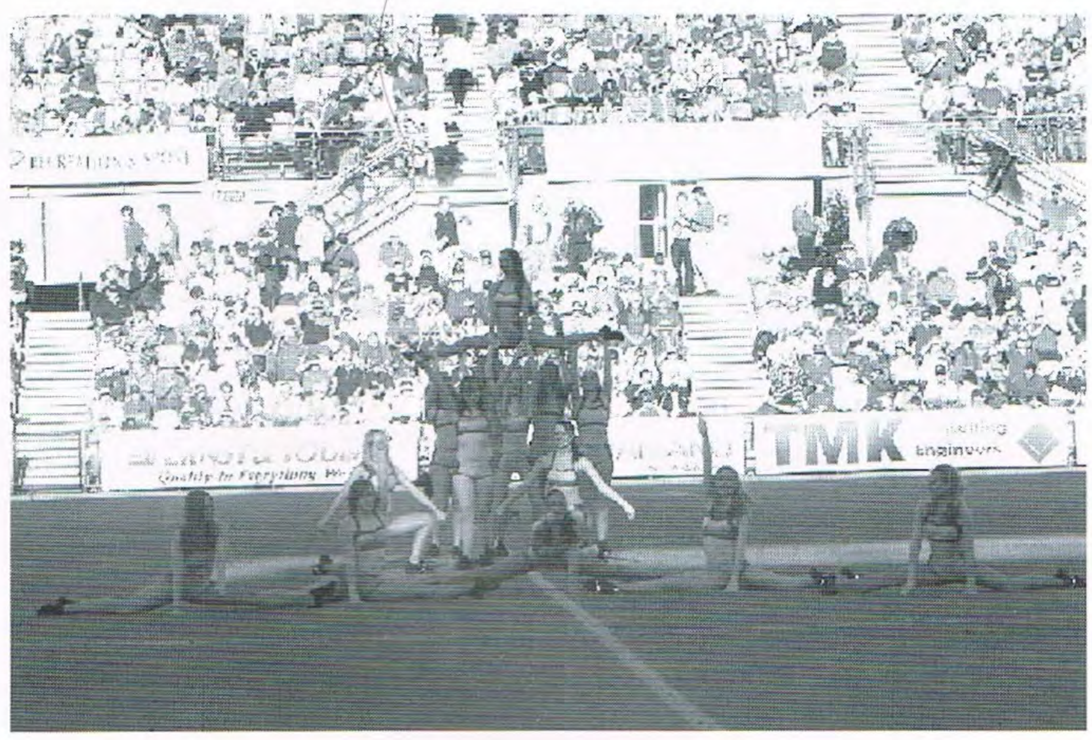
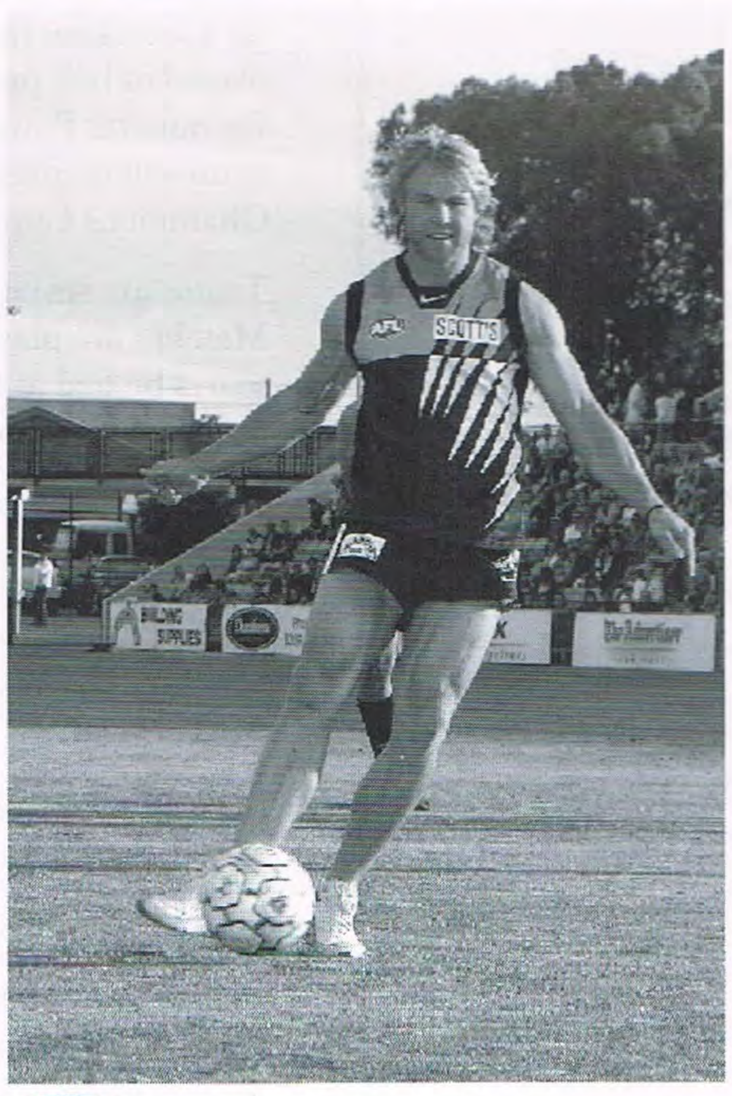
PHOTOGALLERY





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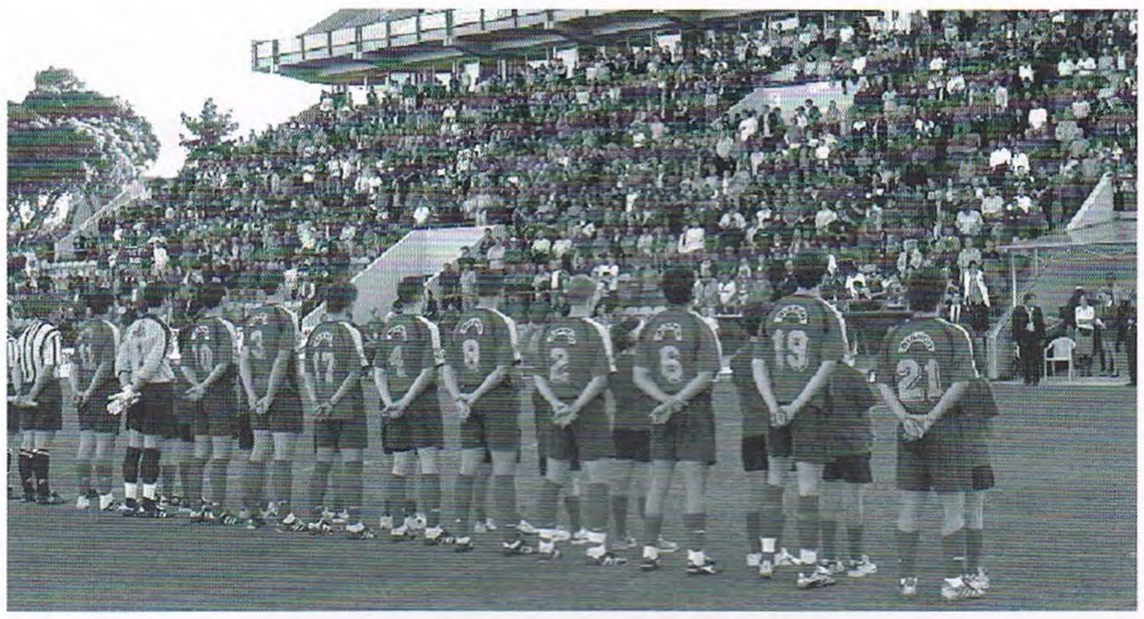

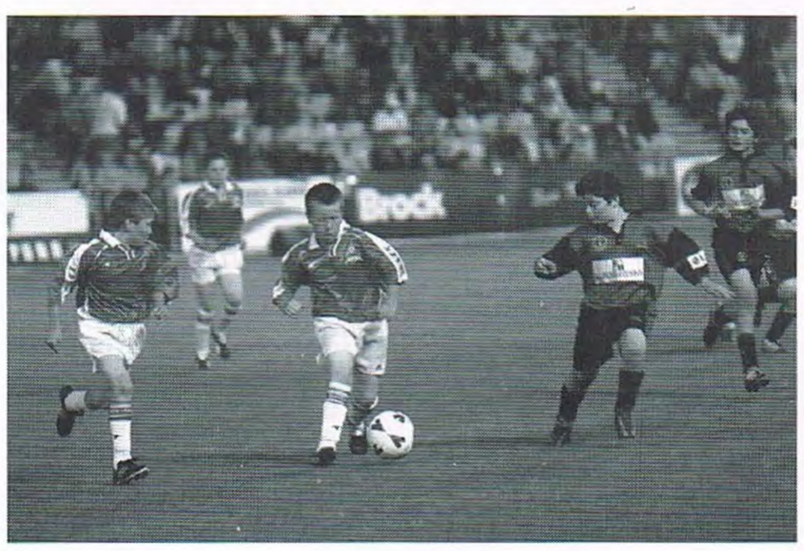

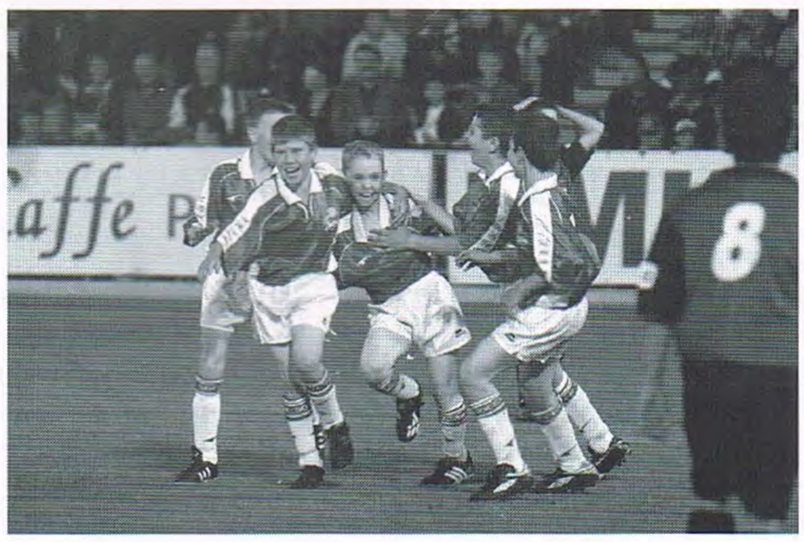

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the ladder that matters

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
South Melbourne	14	9	2	3	31	10	21	29
Perth Glory	12	8	1	3	22	14	8	25
Parramatta Power	13	7	2	4	28	14	14	23
Brisbane Strikers	14	6	5	3	18	14	4	23
Sydney United	13	6	4	3	12	7	5	22
Adelaide United	***12***	***5***	***5***	***2***	***15***	***13***	***2***	***20***
Newcastle United	15	5	5	5	17	17	0	20
Marconi Stallions	14	4	5	5	15	19	-4	17
Northern Spirit	14	5	1	8	21	22	-1	16
Wollongong Wolves	13	4	3	6	15	22	-7	15
Sydney Olympic	14	3	5	6	11	20	-9	14
Melbourne Knights	***13***	***3***	***2***	***8***	***9***	***23***	***-14***	***11***
Football Kingz	13	1	2	10	12	31	-19	5

Three points per win, one point per draw.

goal grabbers

Player (club)	*Goals*
Ante Milicic (Parramatta Power)	11
Vaughan Coveny (South Melbourne)	9
Michael Curcija (South Melbourne)	9
Damian Mori (Perth Glory)	8
Stewart Petrie (Northern Spirit)	7
Carl Veart (Adelaide United)	***6***
Chimaobi Nwaogazi (Wollongong Wolves)	5
Anthony Pelikan (Melbourne Knights)	***5***
Luke Morley (Brisbane Strikers)	5
Bobby Despotovski (Perth Glory)	5
Tom Pondeljak (Perth Glory)	5
Travis Dodd (Parramatta Power)	5

crowd watch

Home games	*#*	*Average*
Adelaide United	6	12181
Perth Glory	2	8568
South Melbourne	7	6349
Melbourne Knights	6	3462
Sydney Olympic	8	3247
Sydney United	7	2968
Newcastle United	9	2851
Brisbane Strikers	7	2483
Northern Spirit	7	2316
Parramatta Power	6	2148
Wollongong Wolves	7	2143
Marconi Stallions	8	1908
Football Kingz	7	1438
All clubs	**87**	**3617**

the men in the middle

Referee	*Games*	*Yellows*	*Reds*
Simon Micallef (NSW)	9	23	2
Craig Zetter (SA)	8	39	2
Eddie Lennie (WA)	8	28	3
Mathew Breeze (NSW)	7	22	0
Con Diomis (NSW)	8	21	1
Peter Green (QLD)	7	20	0
Angelo Nardi (WA)	6	24	2
Derek Rugg (NZ)	6	20	2
Ben Williams (ACT)	5	26	1
Brett Hugo (NSW)	5	12	3
Perry Mur (VIC)	5	6	1
Mark Shield (QLD)	5	16	1
Simon Pryzdacz (NSW)	4	15	0
James Lewis (NNSW)	4	7	1
Total	**87**	**279**	**19**

card count

	Yellows	*Reds*
Marconi Stallions	32	4
Northern Spirit	33	1
Sydney United	27	4
Melbourne Knights	***23***	***1***
Newcastle United	20	3
Adelaide United	***22***	***1***
South Melbourne	23	0
Football Kingz	21	1
Brisbane Strikers	18	1
Sydney Olympic	16	1
Wollongong Wolves	16	1
Parramatta Power	14	1
Perth Glory	14	0
TOTAL	**279**	**19**

previous round

Fri 19.12.03 NEWCASTLE UNITED 0 SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 (Curcija 7') at EnergyAustralia Stadium(r18). Crowd 1231.

Fri 19.12.03 WOLLONGONG WOLVES 3 (Young 2' 68' Nwaogazi 81') MARCONI STALLIONS 3 (Carle 45' Maloney 52' Brosque 77') at WIN Stadium. Crowd 2302.

Fri 19.12.03 FOOTBALL KINGZ 0 SYDNEY UNITED 1 (Haliti 45') at Ericsson Stadium. Crowd 1054.

Sat 20.12.03 PARRAMATTA POWER 1 (Petrovski 44') ADELAIDE UNITED 2 (Aloisi 10' Veart 18') at Parramatta Stadium. Crowd 1967.

Sun 21.12.03 SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Bakis 53') BRISBANE STRIKERS 1 (Pilic 12') at OKI Jubilee Stadium. Crowd 2500.

Sun 21.12.03 MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0 PERTH GLORY 2 (Mrdja 32' 74') at Knights Stadium. Crowd 3696.

Sun 21.12.03 NORTHERN SPIRIT 1 (own goal 62') NEWCASTLE UNITED 1 (Masi 34') at Pittwater Park. Crowd 1935.

current round

Sat	27.12.03	7:30pm	SOUTH MELBOURNE	WOLLONGONG WOLVES	Bob Jane Stadium
Sat	27.12.03	7:00pm	PERTH GLORY	BRISBANE STRIKERS	Members Equity Stadium
Sun	28.12.03	7:00pm	ADELAIDE UNITED	MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	Hindmarsh Stadium
Sun	28.12.03	6:30pm	NEWCASTLE UNITED	MARCONI STALLIONS	EnergyAustralia Stadium
Sun	28.12.03	8:00pm	FOOTBALL KINGZ	PARRAMATTA POWER	Waikato Stadium
Sun	28.12.03	5:00pm	SYDNEY OLYMPIC	NORTHERN SPIRIT	OKI Jubilee Stadium

next round

Sat	03.01.04	7:00pm	BRISBANE STRIKERS	SOUTH MELBOURNE	Perry Park
Sat	03.01.04	6:30pm	PARRAMATTA POWER	NEWCASTLE UNITED	Parramatta Stadium
Sat	03.01.04	7:00pm	PERTH GLORY	FOOTBALL KINGZ	Members Equity Stadium
Sun	04.01.04	6:30pm	SYDNEY UNITED	SYDNEY OLYMPIC	Sydney Utd Sports Centre
Sun	04.01.04	6:35pm	WOLLONGONG WOLVES	MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	WIN Stadium
Sun	04.01.04	6:30pm	NORTHERN SPIRIT	MARCONI STALLIONS	Pittwater Park

ADELAIDE UNITED bye

local times shown

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decent defending

When Marconi's Joe Spiteri scored against Sydney United recently, it was the first goal conceded by Sydney United for **505 minutes** (or 6 hours and 25 minutes). This was the longest period of time without conceding a goal since Marconi went for 582 minutes (9 hours 42 minutes) without conceding throughout March-May 1998. The longest period any team has gone without conceding a goal in the NSL is a stunning **728 minutes** (12 hours 8 minutes), by Heidelberg in July-September 1984.

saso's stunning scoring streak

Saso Petrovski's goal for Parramatta Power against Adelaide United last weekend was the **sixth** consecutive match for Petrovski in which he has scored at least one goal. The all-time NSL record for scoring in most consecutive matches is **seven**, held by Damian Mori (who scored in seven consecutive [Adelaide City] matches from 20-Nov-94 to 8-Jan-95) and Andrew Harper (who scored in seven consecutive [Marconi] matches from 29-Jan-94 to 20-Mar-94).
Co-incidentally, Wollongong's Chimaobi Nwaogazi had at the time of writing scored in each of his last five matches (including the Wolves' 2-2 draw with Adelaide United in round 10), a record for the Wollongong club.

NSL STAT FACT

Recently MICHAEL CURCIJA scored four goals, in South Melbourne's 6-0 win over Football Kingz. To score four or more in a match is a rare event, and has now happened just 32 times in NSL history, or about once per season.

The only Adelaide United player to achieve a four goal haul in the NSL is **Carl Veart** (Adelaide City) who did it twice. Carl's first four goal haul was in a 6-0 win over Melbourne Knights in March 1991, the other was in a 5-1 victory over Brunswick in February 1994.

Adelaide United coach **John Kosmina** also netted four in a NSL match in his playing days. Kossie scored four in Sydney City's 5-2 win over Brisbane City in July 1982.

united breaks down the parramatta fortress

Adelaide United's 2-1 win over Premiership favourites Parramatta Power last weekend was the first time the Power had been defeated at Parramatta Stadium in 18 matches. The previous time the Power lost at home was on 24-Nov-02, a 4-1 loss to Newcastle United. Parramatta's 17 match undefeated streak at Parramatta Stadium was one of the NSL's all-time longest undefeated streaks by a team at the same venue. Parramatta's sequence of undefeated games was: W3–0 v Sydney Utd, W1–0 v Wollongong, D1–1 v Adel City, W7–0 v Marconi, W7–0 v Kingz, W4–1 v South Melb, W5–1 v Nthn Spirit, W2–1 v Perth, D2–2 v Olympic, W3–2 v Newc United, D2–2 v Nthn Spirit, D1–1 v Adel City, D0–0 v South Melb, W4–1 v Kingz, W6–0 v Perth, W4–0 v Melb Knights, W3–0 v Nthn Spirit. Throughout this run, the Power scored an amazing 55 goals to just 12 against, recording 12 wins and five draws, before succumbing to defeat by Adelaide United.

LONGEST UNDEFEATED STREAKS AT A VENUE

Games	Team	Venue	Streak span
25	Sydney Utd	Sydney Utd Sports Centre	10.03.85–17.05.87
23	Sydney Utd	Sydney Utd Sports Centre	14.04.96–07.02.99
22	South Melb	Middle Park	04.06.89–16.12.90
21	South Melb	Bob Jane Stadium	03.05.98–05.12.99
21	Sydney City	Sydney Athletic Field	15.08.82–05.08.84
20	Sydney City	Sydney Athletic Field	25.05.80–13.09.81
18	Olympic	Toyota Park	03.11.01–29.12.02
18	Marconi	Marconi Stadium	18.01.92–11.04.93
17	*Parra Power*	*Parramatta Stadium*	*08.12.02–29.11.03*
17	South Melb	Bob Jane Stadium	28.02.97–29.03.98
17	Adel City	Hindmarsh Stadium	13.11.96–14.01.98
17	Sydney City	Sydney Athletic Field	21.04.85–24.08.86
17	South Melb	Middle Park	13.04.80–10.05.81

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ADELAIDE SENSATION 0 lost to **CANBERRA ECLIPSE** 2 (Ellie Brush 10m, Jenna Maciejewski 31m)

Belconnen Soccer Centre (Canberra), 7 December 2003

In Adelaide's final game for the season, played in blustery conditions, it was Canberra who combined well going forward in the first half; Adelaide were starved of the ball for most of the first period, coming back a little stronger in the second half only to come up against a well organised Canberra defence led by Matildas defender Rhian Davies.

Canberra was rewarded in the 10th minute with the opening goal, a neat layoff by Tal Karp into the path of Brush converted with a drive from 15 metres into the top of the net.

A Jenna Maciejewski drive for Eclipse was met by a great diving save at the right post by keeper Emma Wirkus in the 19th minute. Canberra's lead was then doubled just after the half-hour with a through ball toward goal which Adelaide seemed to have covered when the defender reached the ball first ahead of Jenna Maciejewski, however the striker reached in with her foot and the ball appeared in the back of the net from the challenge on the 6-yard line.

Adelaide's best chance for the half came a minute later, Lisa De Vanna's attempt from wide out on the right sailing not far over.

Adelaide had a chance to pull one back six minutes into the second half, but the unmarked Christina Papageorgiou's header hit the upright. Canberra came off the boil in possession and attack with Davies supplying their best effort to score a third but her long range strike in the 57th minute was tipped over by keeper Wirkus. A couple more chances to Sensation went unconverted, with Lisa De Vanna coming closest in the dying minutes of play – as her marker came in for the tackle, De Vanna sent in a lob over the defence from the left but the certain goal was cleared off the line by the boot of Nicole Somi.

Sensation: Wirkus, May, Shigrov, Day, Slater, Walsh, Stocco (Wilson 46), Vogt, Ralph (Balomenos 57), Papageorgiou (Burgess 84), De Vanna.

sensation 2003/2004

17 Oct 03	Queensland Sting (home)	L 1–4
26 Oct 03	NNSW Pride (away)	W 3–1
02 Nov 03	NSW Sapphires (home)	L 1–2
08 Nov 03	Victoria Vision (home)	L 0–1
16 Nov 03	Canberra Eclipse (home)	W 2–0
22 Nov 03	Queensland Sting (away)	L 2–8
28 Nov 03	NNSW Pride *(Canberra)*	W 3–1
30 Nov 03	Victoria Vision *(Canberra)*	W 4–3
07 Dec 03	NSW Sapphires (away)	D 3–3
13 Dec 03	Canberra Eclipse (away)	L 0-2
20 Dec 03	*grand final (top two of regular season)*	

final wnsl ladder 2003/04

	P	*W*	*D*	*L*	*F*	*A*	*Pts*
Queensland Sting	10	8	2	-	37	9	26
NSW Sapphires	10	6	4	-	32	10	22
Adelaide Sensation	*10*	*4*	*1*	*5*	*19*	*25*	*13*
Canberra Eclipse	10	2	4	4	9	12	10
Victoria Vision	10	2	3	5	14	32	9
NNSW Pride	10	-	2	8	15	38	2

grand final 2003/04

NSW Sapphires 3 defeated Queensland Sting 1 at Lions Stadium, Brisbane

top scorers after round ten

13	Catherine Cannuli	NSW Sapphires
10	*Lisa De Vanna*	*Adelaide Sensation*
9	Belinda Dawney	Queensland Sting
8	Jessica Mitchell	Queensland Sting
6	Michelle Carney	NSW Sapphires
6	Kylie Ledbrook	NSW Sapphires
6	April Mann	Queensland Sting

all WNSL information courtesy of www.matildas.org.au

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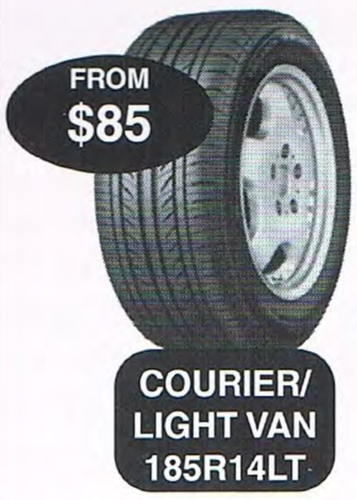

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have times changed?

Allan Crisp

In the first edition of the National sports magazine, "Soccer Star," editor Fred Villiers printed this screaming headline - "Australia's $1 Million Dollar Gamble."

Fred's lead article read, "Australian soccer will kick-off the big Philips League in April (1977) – a $1 million dollar gamble.

It will be the biggest, richest and most important season in the history of the game. It will either make or break the 14 clubs from New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and the ACT who are now taking part in the competition. It is an expensive, ambitious project which the four Victorian clubs, were at first reluctant to join.

Sydney, the home of the stars, will be represented by Hakoah Eastern Suburbs, Marconi, Sydney Olympic, St George and Western Suburbs. The Melbourne teams are JUST, Fitzroy and Mooroolbark United. South Australia will be represented by Adelaide City and West Adelaide, with two from Queensland - Brisbane City and Brisbane Lions, while ACT have Canberra City.

The league is being sponsored to the tune of $750,000 over the next three years, while Clubs have organised individual sponsorships from $10,000 to $200,000.

Add to this the $65,000 from the NSW State League and the sponsorship rivals that of the major codes of Australian rules and Rugby League."

When Fred Villiers wrote that piece he was understandably excited by the prospect of soccer becoming the first of all Australian sports to form a national league.

As we stand on the brink of massive reform for the national league, has anything changed, apart from the currency values?

There was a hint of disharmony when Fred wrote that the Victorian clubs showed reluctance to join the PSL in 1977.

A similar scenario developed in Victoria last week when two pro-Frank Lowy supporters, John Lewis and Nick Monteleone failed to gain seats on the board of the Victorian Soccer Federation.

It was not plain sailing either in Adelaide when the PSL was first mooted. Tom McKain, writing in the "Soccer Star" reported thus, "When the furore caused by the formation of the PSL died down it was expected the super and local leagues would bury the hatchet and work together for the common cause.

They certainly are trying to dispose of the hatchet, but it's not in a peace log or the turf – it's in each other's heads, backs or any other part of the anatomy available.

The resentment felt by other First Division clubs to the national league status won by Hellas and Juventus (now West Adelaide and Adelaide City) has split a once placid soccer community in SA."

Charlie Caruso, who was the first Adelaide City chairman, said at the time, "I feel like a criminal, and yet all we did, along with Hellas was to try and improve the game.

"We are now getting the brush off from people we once had a good working relationship with on and off the field," Caruso said.

City and West were accepted into the PSL fold at the expense of a joint bid by SA First Division clubs, USC Lion, Polonia, Beograd and Second Division club, Port Adelaide.

The bold quartet had an impressive motto, "Let's all work together to make soccer THE game in Australia."

The ambition of SASF's visionary president of the era, Alex Hastings was to split the 10 SA clubs into two groups of five to form two potential national league clubs drawing on the best available talent. The thinking behind the proposal was that powerful teams would be capable of attracting huge support.

USC Lion, Polonia, Beograd and Port Adelaide, like former Scottish international and Sunderland captain, Alex Hastings, also were visionaries.

Their working title for their proposed national league club was – "Adelaide United."

Allan Crisp joins former Socceroo Charley Villani on radio RPH (1197am) on Sundays 8.30am–9-30am & links with AUFC captain Aurelio Vidmar and United marketing guru Angelo Picca each Tuesday from 7am-9am.

Crisp also presents Adelaide United reviews and previews on Monday and Friday mornings on the RPH Morning Sports Show, hosted by Darryl Smith from 7am-9am.

MATCHREPORT

PARRAMATTA POWER 1
ADELAIDE UNITED 2

Parramatta Stadium, 20 December 2003

Dom Rinaldo, 5DN

At the start of this season , all the experts predicted that Parramatta Power were the team to beat.

They do have a "star studded" team, BUT Adelaide United really did prove that a team of "stars" does not necessarily make a champion team. Adelaide scored a couple of early goals, which really did set them up for what I think was Adelaide United's best win so far this season. Not just because of the three valuable points, but the way every player on the field worked so hard for each other – which really was the difference between the two sides. Sure Parramatta did have their chances, but you cannot take away the fight and commitment of the Adelaide team.

It was great to see Ross Aloisi score his first goal for the club, in the tenth minute of the match. It was a well-deserved goal for Ross, who firstly won the ball in the midfield, laid it off to Aaron Westervelt who duly returned it to Ross who shielded well and then struck past an approaching Clint Bolton in the Parramatta goal. Ross was eventually awarded the 5DN "Man Of The Match", although I have to say it was hard to pick, as everyone did their bit.

In the 17th minute Goran Lozanovski made a great run down the right, crossed to Shane Thompson who headed it back across goal to Carl Veart who headed it into goal to make for a 2-0 lead.

Our boys then hung on determinedly, especially after Saso Petrovski scored in the 44th minute. United's defence, minus recent sweeper Aurelio Vidmar, played well and David Scarsella made some excellent saves from a potent Power attack which includes the league's top scorer, Ante Milicic. Despite the loss, Parramatta Power will be thereabouts come finals time – they have some quality players.

After the game at the team hotel all the boys were very pretty happy with the result and also the fact that they have been undefeated in their past six games in a very gruelling schedule.

In closing , I have to mention the support of "The Stand" at the Parramatta Stadium. Well done gang, it is a long bus trip from Adelaide to Sydney and back, but having the support really does help the team. The drum beating and all the noise was fantastic, and after the game at the team bus they just kept on beating the drum and singing – terrific passionate stuff.

From everyone at 5DN have a Happy 2004.

Parramatta Power: Clint Bolton, Jacek Sobczyk, Michael Beauchamp, Simon Colosimo (Peter Zorbas 75'), Ahmad Elrich, Andre Gumprecht, Matt Thompson, Lucas Pantelis (Travis Dodd 55'), Fernando Rech, Saso Petrovski (Paul O'Grady 80'), Ante Milicic.
Adelaide United: David Scarsella, Aaron Westervelt, Aaron Goulding, Mike Valkanis, Kristian Rees, Richie Alagich, Shane Thompson, Ross Aloisi (Adriano Pellegrino 68'), Goran Lozanovski (David Terminello 28'), Nick Budin, Carl Veart.

5DN PLAYER OF THE YEAR leading pts after r14:
9 pts – Aaron Goulding, Aurelio Vidmar.
8 pts – Richie Alagich, Ross Aloisi, Kristian Rees, Mike Valkanis, Carl Veart

5DN 1323am classic hits

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ADELAIDE UNITED 1
NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
Hindmarsh Stadium, 10 Dec 2003

Andrew Howe, Soccer Information Services

Northern Spirit could consider themselves unlucky not to share the points against Adelaide United in the mid-week round 12 game at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Although Adelaide started the match in typically grandiose fashion, with several attempts on goal within the first 20 minutes, the half-time scoreline of 1-0 never guaranteed a home team win throughout a scrappy albeit even second half.

Twenty year-old United striker Mimi Saric scored the one and only goal of the game after just eight minutes, when from six metres out he headed home a free kick from Goran Lozanovski. The free kick had been taken from 25 metres out and from a 45 degree angle, and despite Lozanovski crossing it directly to Saric, the Spirit defence should really have done better in not pressuring the striker better.

Playing with the wind, Adelaide United should have netted its second in the 37th minute after Saric fought off a Spirit defender and then shot from 10 metres out only for the ball to rebound back from the left post. Despite the miss, Saric was playing very confidently and is relishing his starting role after starting the season on the substitute's bench.

After hardly threatening the goal at all in the first half, Spirit had a good chance six minutes after the break when Noel Spencer's 20 metre shot went just over the cross-bar.

In the 78th minute Carl Veart broke free from his defenders in the middle of the park and ran free to within seven metres of goal, only to have his shot blocked by Paul Henderson, the Spirit keeper doing well to get down quickly to stop the ball. Despite the good save, Veart should have made more of the opportunity, with very little in the way of defensive pressure on him as he shot for goal.

Chances for the visitors' John Hutchinson (78th minute) and Brent Fisher (87th) almost leveled the scores, with Fisher's shot especially disappointing as he fluffed his attempt entirely.

The home crowd were treated to an unofficial tribute to local legend Alex Tobin (recently injured) when he came in the past two minutes for the Spirit in what looked like a token appearance.

The result moved Adelaide United in to the top six for the first time this season.

Adelaide United: David Scarsella, Aaron Goulding, Kristian Rees, Richie Alagich, Adriano Pellegrino (Aaron Westervelt 66'), Aurelio Vidmar, Shane Thompson, Ross Aloisi, Goran Lozanovski, Carl Veart, Mimi Saric (Nick Budin 72').
Northern Spirit: Paul Henderson, Julian Watts, Matthew Osman (Matthew Hunter 28'), Noel Spencer, Vuko Tomasevic, Bradley Groves (Alex Tobin 88'), Wayne O'Sullivan, Steven Baveas, John Hutchinson, Stewart Petrie, Adam Kwasnik (Brent Fisher 63').

mark baylis' match stats

	AU	NS
Total shots on goal	9	8
Shots on target	2	3
Into penalty area	15	11
Off-sides conceded	3	6
Corners	2	4
Unpressured turnovers	8	16
Free kicks	20	18
Yellow cards	3	4
Red Cards	0	0

ADELAIDE UNITED 1
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1
Hindmarsh Stadium, 14 December 2003

Andrew Howe, Soccer Information Services

An average spectacle was brought to life in a final ten minute flurry as United and Sydney Olympic shared the points.

Although Adelaide piled on the pressure throughout the first 20 minutes - not for the first time - the home team overall seemed jaded as it played its fifth game in 16 days. While fitness and enthusiasm was not a issue, Adelaide United was caught out in defence several times throughout the entire match, and much to the disappointment of 11,000-plus home fans, attacking plays fell down too frequently.

Highlights of the first half included a chance by Olympic's Jim Nikas in the 18th minute expertly thwarted by United keeper David Scarsella; while at the other end of the pitch, a header by Adelaide's Shane Smeltz in the 35th minute went just over the goal after good lead-up play by Carl Veart and Richie Alagich.

Adelaide's first-half attacking dominance was demonstrated by the half-time corner count (6–1 to Adelaide) and forays into penalty area (11–4 to Adelaide). However, final shots on target were a rarity for either team, with just one apiece in the first half. The half-time score was nil-all.

Olympic started the second stanza confidently, and its very mobile attack nearly brought Adelaide unstuck several times throughout the entire half. Although the home team were able to catch their opponents out off-side on nine occasions throughout the game, Olympic beat the off-side trap many other times and should have made more of their resultant chances.

A contentious refereeing decision in the 58th minute after Vidmar had jostled with an Olympic attacker saw Vidmar lose out - the Adelaide captain was sent from the field as he received his second yellow for the game over the incident. From the free kick, Pablo Cardozo nicely curled a 20 metre shot from directly in front, but not nicely enough to go under the cross-bar.

Vidmar's departure initially rattled the Adelaide defence, and just four minutes after the send-off Olympic caught the opposition out when Jim Bakis combined well with Cardozo to set the renown goalscorer free. After a 10 metre run he shot from six metres, giving Scarsella no chance. It was Cardozo's 121st goal of his career, putting him at equal fifth (with Marshall Soper) on the NSL's all-time scorer's ladder.

United's back-line settled once Mike Valkanis was brought on in the 68th minute. The replacement seemed to inspire the South Australian club; just one minute after coming on, Valkanis himself missed a golden opportunity when a corner fell directly to him immediately in front of the goal.

At 85 minutes Veart was released by Ross Aloisi, who had done well with a run down the line. Veart's low drive from eight metres was met with a nice instinctive save from Olympic keeper Brett Hughes. The attempt was soon followed by a Shane Thompson chance which went straight into Hughes' arms.

A very vocal home crowd sensed an equaliser, and it almost came from Veart who ran a long way with the ball despite continual harassment from two Olympic defenders. His shot was deflected out from a corner, and following another successive corner from David Terminello, it was the hard-working Thompson who rewarded the home audience when he shook off his marker in the box to head home directly from the corner with three minutes of regulation time remaining.

Adelaide United: David Scarsella, Aaron Goulding, Kristian Rees, Richie Alagich, Shane Thompson, Aurelio Vidmar, Aaron Westervelt, Ross Aloisi, Goran Lozanovski (David Terminello 56'), Shane Smeltz (Mike Valkanis 68'), Carl Veart.
Sydney Olympic: Brett Hughes, Jim Nikas, Iain Fyfe, Paul Kohler, Ante Juric, Elias Augerinos (Michael Baird 46'), Troy Halpin, George Goutzioulis, Zenon Caravella, Pablo Cardozo, Jim Bakis.

mark baylis' match stats

	AU	SO
Total shots on goal	9	8
Shots on target	4	2
Into penalty area	20	9
Off-sides conceded	1	9
Corners	10	4
Unpressured turnovers	15	16
Free kicks	9	8
Yellow cards	2	2
Red cards	1	2

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JOHN ALOISI (former Adelaide City)
SPANISH DIVISION ONE (PRIMERA LIGA)
13-12-03: started as Athletico Osasuna drew 0-0 away to Racing Santander.

STAN LAZARIDIS (former West Adelaide)
ENGLISH FA BARCLAYCARD PREMIER LEAGUE
14-12-03: came on in the 66th minute as Birmingham City won 2-0 away to Leicester City.

JOEL PORTER (former West Adelaide)
ENGLISH FA CUP - Second round
13-12-03: played a full game as Hartlepool United lost 4-1 away to Queens Park Rangers.

TONY VIDMAR (former Adelaide City)
ENGLISH NATIONWIDE DIVISION ONE
09-12-03: played a full game as Cardiff City drew 2-2 at home against Preston North End.
13-12-03: played a full game and scored an own goal in the 79th minute as Cardiff City lost 4-1 away to Norwich City.

other aussies abroad

DUTCH DIVISION TWO (GOUDEN GIDS DIVISIE)
12-12-03: Australian Under 23 **Brett Holman** started as Excelsior lost 1-0 at home against Helmond Sport.

FA BARCLAYCARD PREMIER LEAGUE
14-12-03: Socceroos **Brett Emerton** and **Lucas Neill** both played full games as Blackburn Rovers lost 1-0 away to Arsenal.
14-12-03: Socceroo **Mark Viduka** played a full game and scored in the 45th minute as Leeds United won 3-2 at home against Fulham.
14-12-03: Socceroo **Mark Schwarzer** (gk) played a full game and kept a clean sheet as Middlesbrough drew 0-0 at home against Charlton Athletic. Middlesbrough equalled a club record as they kept their 7th consecutive clean sheet with Schwarzer only missing one of these games (due to illness).

ENGLAND NATIONWIDE DIVISION ONE
13-12-03: **John Filan** (gk) played a full game and kept a clean sheet as Wigan Atheltic won 1-0 at home against Bradford City.

ENGLAND NATIONWIDE DIVISION TWO
13-12-03: Australian Under 23 **Brad Jones** (gk) played a full game as Blackpool lost 1-0 at home against Luton Town. The winning goal was only the 2nd goal that Jones has conceded in his seven games for Blackpool.
13-12-03: **Les Pogliacomi** (gk) played a full game as Oldham Athletic lost 2-1 away to Colchester United.
13-12-03: Australian Under 23 **Luke Wilkshire** played a full game as Bristol City drew 1-1 away to Rushden and Diamonds.

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
13-12-03: Australian Under 23 **Adrian Madaschi** played a full game as Partick Thistle lost 3-0 at home against Aberdeen. Meanwhile, for Aberdeen, **David Zdrilic** came on in the 73rd minute.
13-12-03: Australian Under 23 **Patrick Kisnorbo** played a full game as Hearts won 2-1 at home against Kilmarnock.
13-12-03: **Stuart Lovell** played a full game as Livingston lost 2-0 away to Dundee United.

TURKISH DIVISION ONE (SUPER LEAGUE)
14-12-03: **Michael Petkovic** (gk) played a full game as Trabzonspor won 2-1 away to Galatasary.
13-12-03: Socceroo **Josip Skoko** played a full game as Genclerbirligi won 1-0 at home against Istanbulspor.
Information provided by the Australian Soccer Association.

british briefs

John Thompson-Mills

For 101 years, between 1883 and 1984, British football fans could always look forward to the end of the football season. May brought on the Home Internationals – a series of matches between the England, Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Wales national teams.

An increasingly crowded fixture list, dwindling attendances and continued problems with hooliganism eventually saw the tournament scrapped. However in recent years, fans of English & Scottish clubs have been able to rekindle that passion through so called "Battle of Britain" pairings in the Champions League & UEFA Cup.

This has kept alive the dream of Rangers & Celtic who want to play in the English Premier League, but in recent days has helped a new idea surface – the British Cup.

By the time you read this, a decision may have already been made, but essentially, a plan has been floated by the Coors Brewery, for the winners of the Scottish & English League Cups to play each other in an end of season one-off game.

Coors, who {through their Carling brand} sponsor the English comp and Old Firm shirts, have identified May 25 as a suitable date for the game and with Rangers, Arsenal, and Spurs amongst the semi finalists in their respective League Cup competitions, the prospect of another Battle of Britain match-up to finish the season is seen as an attractive idea.

Celtic boss Martin O'Neill has given tentative approval to the plan although he says fixture congestion will always be an issue, and given that May 25 is the day before the Champions League Final he may have a point.

To make the game more attractive, it's proposed the winner get 450,000 pounds with 300,000 to the losers. Both also get a share of the TV money.

Meanwhile with Celtic out of the Champions League and the transfer window about to open, Martin O'Neill is now having to deal with speculation surrounding the future of his star players.

Strikers John Hartson and Henrik Larsson have both been linked with Birmingham, while it's rumoured Sir Bobby sees Larsson as an ideal if short-term replacement for Allan Shearer.

A few miles away from Glasgow – in Edinburgh in fact – one of the country's oldest clubs, Hearts are considering selling their Tynecastle ground {capacity 17,000} and moving to Murrayfield {capacity 67,000}. While Hearts only average 12,0000, there's a plan to cover over seats to improve the atmosphere, and then utilise the superior corporate and catering facilities to wipe out their 17 million pound debt.

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Season	*Player of the year*	*U/21 player of the year*	*Top goalscorer award*	*Coach of the year*
1977	Jim Rooney (Marconi)	**John Kosmina (West Adel)**	**John Deans (Adel City) 16 goals**	Rale Rasic (Marconi)
1978	Ken Boden (Newc KB Utd)	Ian Souness (Sydney City)	Ken Boden (Newc KB Utd) 14 Clive Eaton (Western Subs) 14	Gerry Chaldi (Sydney City)
1979	Ivo Prskalo (Marconi)	Eddie Krncevic (Marconi)	Mark Jankovic (Marconi) 18	Les Scheinflug (Marconi)
1980	Jim Hermiston (Bris Lions)	John Spanos (Sydney City)	Gary Cole (Heidelberg) 21	John Margaritis (South Melb)
1981	**Bobby Russell (Adel City)**	**David Mitchell (Adel City)**	Gary Cole (Heidelberg) 16	Eddie Thomson (Sydney City)
1982	Peter Katholos (Olympic)	David Lowe (Newc KB Utd)	John Kosmina (Sydney City) 23	Frank Arok (St George)
1983	Joe Watson (Sydney City)	Oscar Crino (South Melb)	Doug Brown (South Melb) 16	Frank Arok (St George)
1984	**Sergio Melta (Adel City)**	Tony Franken (Canb City)	Doug Brown (South Melb) 20	Eddie Thomson (Sydney City)
1985	**Graham Honeyman (West Adel)**	Alan Hunter (Bris Lions)	Charlie Egan (South Melb) 18	Eddie Thomson (Sydney City)
1986	Bobby Russell (South Melb) Graham Arnold (Sydney Utd)	Ernie Tapai (Footscray)	Graham Arnold (Sydney Utd) 16	Drago Sekularac (Footscray)
1987	Andrew Zinni (Brunswick) Frank Farina (Marconi)	John Markovski (Sunshine)	Frank Farina (Marconi) 16	Rale Rasic (Apia Leichhardt)
1988	Paul Wade (South Melb) Frank Farina (Marconi)	Paul Trimboli (South Melb)	Frank Farina (Marconi) 16	Brian Garvey (South Melb)
1989	Zlatko Nastevski (Marconi)	Paul Trimboli (South Melb)	Zlatko Nastevski (Marconi) 20	Berti Mariani (Marconi)
1989/90	Zeljko Adzic (Melb Knights)	Paul Okon (Marconi)	David Seal (Sydney Utd) 15	Berti Mariani (Marconi)
1990/91	**Milan Ivanovic (Adel City)**	Paul Okon (Marconi)	David Seal (Marconi) 19	**Zoran Matic (Adel City)**
1991/92	Josip Biskic (Melb Knights)	Kevin Muscat (Heidelberg)	Tim Bredbury (Olympic) 15 Kim Taliadoros (South Melb) 15	David Ratcliffe (Wollongong)
1992/93	Paul Trimboli (South Melb)	Steve Corica (Marconi)	Francis Awaritefe (South Melb) 18	Jim Pyrgolios (South Melb)
1993/94	Mark Viduka (Melb Knights)	Mark Viduka (Melb Knights)	Mark Viduka (Melb Knights) 16	Mirko Bazic (Melb Knights)
1994/95	Mark Viduka (Melb Knights)	Mark Viduka (Melb Knights)	Mark Viduka (Melb Knights) 18	Mirko Bazic (Melb Knights)
1995/96	**Damian Mori (Adel City)**	**Jim Tsekenis (West Adel)**	**Damian Mori (Adel City) 31**	**John Perin (Adel City)**
1996/97	Kresimir Marusic (Sydney Utd)	Kasey Wehrman (Bris Strikers)	David Zdrilic (Sydney Utd) 21	Branko Culina (Sydney Utd)
1997/98	Paul Trimboli (South Melb)	Brett Emerton (Olympic)	**Damian Mori (Adel City) 19**	Ange Postecoglou (South Melb)
1998/99	Brad Maloney (Marconi)	Mile Sterjovski (Sydney Utd)	Pablo Cardozo (Olympic) 18	David Mitchell (Sydney Utd)
1999/00	Scott Chipperfield (Wollongong)	Ivan Ergic (Perth)	**Damian Mori (Adel City) 22**	Bernd Stange (Perth Glory)
2000/01	Scott Chipperfield (Wollongong)	Ben Burgess (Nthn Spirit)	Damian Mori (Perth) 19	Mike Petersen (South Melb)
2001/02	Fernando Rech (Bris Strikers)	Joe Schirippa (Newc United)	Damian Mori (Perth) 17	Ian Crook (Newc United)
2002/03	Damian Mori (Perth Glory)	Alex Brosque (Marconi)	Damian Mori (Perth) 16	Lawrie McKinna (Nthn Spirit)

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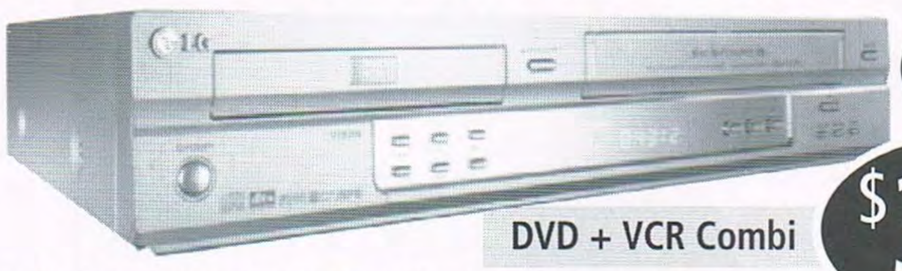

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